

The mission of the NC CHAMP is to meet the health surveillance needs of North Carolina for children and adolescents from birth through age 17. To carry out this mission, NC CHAMP has established the following goals: (1) to monitor the status of child health (ages 0–17) and identify child health problems in North Carolina; (2) to measure parents' perspectives on child health issues; (3) to provide accurate and valid data to inform evidence-based decisions, strategies, and policies to improve child health; and (4) to assess relationships between parent health and child health, and inform family-centered approaches to improve child health. Eligible children for the NC CHAMP survey are drawn each month from the NC BRFSS telephone survey of adults, ages 18 and older.

## Methods

### *Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)*

The BRFSS is a state-based system of health surveys that collects data about health risks and practices associated with the leading causes of morbidity, mortality, and disability. Established in 1984 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the BRFSS is the largest telephone health survey in the world and currently collects data in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam. North Carolina has been participating in the BRFSS since 1990.

The North Carolina BRFSS program operates through the SCHS as part of the Survey Operations Program (SOP), within the Chronic Disease and Injury (CDI) section of the North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH). The BRFSS is a cross-sectional annual telephone survey that assesses health characteristics of non-institutionalized adults age 18 and older and utilizes a random-digit-dial (RDD) computer-assisted-telephone-interviewing (CATI) system. For detailed information about the BRFSS, refer to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Operational and User's Guide (available at [www.cdc.gov/brfss](http://www.cdc.gov/brfss)).

The BRFSS questionnaire is designed by a working group of state coordinators and CDC's Behavioral Surveillance Branch (BSB) staff and consists of three parts: (1) the core component (fixed core, rotating core,

and emerging core); (2) optional modules; and (3) state-added questions. Two of the North Carolina state-added modules include: (1) Random Child Selection; and (2) CHAMP Follow-up (see appendices B and C). A BRFSS core demographic question asks how many children 17 and younger live in the household. If the respondent indicates that one or more children under the age of 17 live in the household, then the respondent is asked the Random Child Selection module. During the Random Child Selection, if more than one child is living in the household then one child is randomly selected through a pre-programmed process in the CATI data entry system used by each interviewer. Respondents are then asked to report the birth month and year as well as the sex of the selected child. The CHAMP Follow-up module directly follows the Random Child Selection module.

During the CHAMP Follow-up module, respondents are asked if they are willing to participate in a call-back survey that asks additional questions about the health of the selected child. The respondents are reassured that all information will be kept confidential. If they agree to participate in the call-back survey, they are asked if they are the person in the household who knows the most about the health and health practices of the selected child. If not, then they are asked to identify the one person in the household that is most knowledgeable about the health of the child. The relationship of the NC BRFSS respondent to the child, as well as the relationship of the adult that is most knowledgeable about the health of the child (if different from the NC BRFSS respondent), is recorded. The first name of the child (or initials or nickname) is recorded only for the purpose of identifying the randomly selected child during the follow-up interview. Respondents are then asked when is the best time to call back and complete the follow-up survey: daytimes, evenings, or weekends. At the close of the CHAMP Follow-up module, respondents are told that in the follow-up survey, they will be asked about the child's height and weight, and they are given specific instructions on how to accurately measure the child's height and weight.

### *Child Health Assessment and Monitoring Program (CHAMP)*

All adult BRFSS respondents with a child under the age of 18 living in their household are invited to participate in the NC CHAMP survey. The NC